

Message Text

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15

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EUR-25 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICAN PURCHASE OF TUNA VESSELS FROM POLAND

1. THE NEWSPAPER EL DIA ON NOVEMBER 28 CARRIED AN ARTICLE STATING THAT MEXICO AND POLAND HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE CONSTRUCTION BY POLAND OF SIX TUNA SIENERS. THE FISHATT WAS TOLD BY SUBSECRETARY MEDINA NERI ON NOVEMBER 29 THAT THE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED.

2. THE VESSELS ARE BEING PURCHASED BY SIX COOPERATIVES ACTING AS ONE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURING A LOAN FROM THE NATIONAL BANK FOR COOPERATIVES (BANFOCO) OF 185 MILLION PESOS (US\$14,800,000). THE PRICE OF EACH BOAT IS ABOUT \$US2,470,000.

3. THE BOATS ARE 650 TON CAPACITY, RADOS WESTON DESIGN. ENGINES, FISHING GEAR AND ELECTRONICS WILL BE U.S. IN FACT LITTLE MORE THAN THE HULL WILL BE POLISH. DELIVERY OF THE FIRST UNIT IS SCHEDULED FOR 18 MONTHS AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE CONTRACT AND ONE EVERY TWO MONTHS THEREAFTER.

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4. WHEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE POLES FOR TUNA

BOAT CONSTRUCTION WAS FIRST REPORTED IN THE PRESS ABOUT A YEAR AGO THE NUMBER OF BOATS WAS 15. THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE ENTERED INTO BY DIRECT ORDER OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA. AT FIRST IT WAS PICTURED AS A STRICTLY BARTER DEAL, MEXICAN RAW MATERIALS FOR POLISH BOATS. NOW IT APPEARS TO BE STRICTLY CASH. MEDINA NERI SAYS HE NEVER WANTED ANY BOATS BUILT IN POLAND, HE WANTED THEM BUILT IN THE U.S. BUT WAS ONLY ABLE TO USE HIS INFLUENCE TO SCALE THE NUMBER DOWN FROM 15 TO 6.

5. MEDINA NERI ALSO SAID THAT ONE OF THE COOPERATIVES BOUGHT TWO U.S. TUNA BOATS LAST WEEK. HE CLAIMED HE DID NOT KNOW WHICH BOATS OR FROM WHOM PURCHASED. HE ALSO SAID THAT IF IDB LOAN IS SECURED TUNA BOATS FROM THAT LOAN (SUPPOSEDLY 12) WILL BE BUILT IN SAN DIEGO. HE SAID SPECIFICATIONS WOULD BE DRAWN SUCH THAT ONLY CAMPBELL INDUSTRIES COULD BID SUCCESSFULLY.

MCBRIDE

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